



THE TOWER

*First Presbyterian Church
37 Church Mall
Springfield, NJ 07081
www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.com*

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FEBRUARY 2018



ASH WEDNESDAY SUPPER AND COMMUNION SERVICE

You are invited to attend an Ash Wednesday Supper and Service on Wednesday, February 14, at 6 p.m. in the Chapel (large room next to our sanctuary). A light supper of soup and bread will be served. Since it is Valentine's Day, bring someone you care about and share a special evening contemplating God's great love for us. A Communion Service around the tables will follow at 6:45 p.m. If you would like the disposition of ashes, Pastor Vicky will make them available following the service.

Please call the office (973) 379-4320 and let them know the number who will be attending.



Lenten Supper Set-Up Schedule

Each group leader listed below has instructions for the set -up.

2/14/18	Deacons	Dawn Clarke
2/21/18	Trustees & Men's Fellowship	Russ Werner & Don Rathjens
2/28/18	Choir	Carol Kaiser
3/7/18	Outreach/Membership	Mary Pat Deane
3/14/18	Session	Lynn Doll
3/21/17	PW	Gloria

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY- FEBRUARY 4TH

To help those in our community who are in need of nutritious meals, we will be collecting soup cans on Sunday, February 4th. Please place your donation in and around the collection boxes by the fireplace before or after the worship service. They will be donated to a local food bank.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AND BIBLE STUDY

Once again this year, we will use our Lenten season as a time of fellowship and study. Our Lenten Soup and Bread Suppers will be on February 21, 28, March 7, 14, and 21 in our Chapel (large room next to our sanctuary). Supper begins at 6 p.m. with our Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

This season we will work with a series entitled “The Way”—Following in the footsteps of Jesus. We will discover the people Jesus loved, the parables he taught, the enemies he made and the healing he brought. We have enjoyed Adam Hamilton’s DVD presentations in the past, and he will again provide us with historical information, archaeological date and faith stores to follow in Christ’s footsteps from his baptism and temptation into the heart of his ministry. We hope that our Bible Study time together will prove to be uplifting, informative, and one that generates good conversation among the participants.

Please remember to sign up each week or to call the office (973-379-4320) so that we will have adequate food prepared.

WORDS OF THANKS

Even though the holidays left us almost a month ago, I would like to thank our music director Liliya Khabotkhova for the lovely music she provided for our Advent and Christmas season. We all enjoyed the Christmas Cantata on December 17th. Toes were tapping to the jazzy arrangements of familiar Christmas carols which livened the spirits of all who were there. We all enjoyed a glorious music experience.

Christmas Eve was a little different this year because the 24th came on a Sunday. But our 10:15 am service combined our 4th Sunday of Advent with our traditional Christmas pageant. We were blessed to have a real family as the “Holy Family”—Joel, Melissa and little Emelia Bliss surrounded by our angels, shepherds and Wise Men (& Wise Woman! Thank you, Michele Faraone!) Special thanks to Lisa Guida who worked with the costumes. Our choir blessed us with two wonderful Christmas anthems. At the later candlelight/communion service, Helen Heung was our soloist. The entire service was one of awe and joy.

Also thanks to Lisa Guida and all the “other elves” for an outstanding Parents’ Night Out and Santa Workshop for our children. And many thanks to our Outreach Committee and Chair Mary Pat Deane who continue to plan fun events such as our Christmas luncheon. Thank you all for an outstanding and memorable December!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

How ironic and how appropriate that Ash Wednesday and our cultural celebration of love (Valentine's Day) fall on the same day this year—February 14.

Ash Wednesday is traditionally a rather somber day, as we consider that we are insignificant dust creatures, made by God, and that we have failed to be the people God created us to be. Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent, a time when we consider ways in which we might transform our lives to be more pleasing to God and to ready us for the gift of Resurrection on Easter Day.

The idea of Lent is to move us toward the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross and for us to ponder what a gift of love that sacrifice is.

So, I'm suggesting this Lent that we make it a season of love! If you are in the habit of "giving up" something for the 6-week period of Lent, and that is a spiritual practice that brings you closer to the Lord, by all means DO IT! But what I'm suggesting this year is that we add acts of love and kindness every day into our routines. Is there someone you know who is lonely? Make a phone call or write a note telling them that you're thinking of them and praying for them. Is there someone who might enjoy a surprise meal? Take it to them. Is there someone who is going through a hard time? Find the time to give a word of encouragement or a shoulder to cry on. Is there someone you need to forgive? Do it now—free yourself and them. Do you need to say "sorry" to someone who was at the receiving end of angry words or actions? Say it—and don't add "buts" or "if you...." Just say, "Sorry!" When you're buying coffee at a store, pay for a cup for the person in back of you. If you're in the check-out line at a supermarket, tell the clerk that he or she is doing a good job and that you appreciate their hard work. These are just a few suggestions—I'm sure you can come up with many more acts of random kindness!

Psychologists tell us that we create a new habit by doing something for 30 days. Lent just happens to be 40 days—10 extra days to make love and kindness a new habit that you can practice 365 days a year. I can't think of a better way to remind ourselves of the love of God than to spread it around.

"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. Let us love one another, because love is from God." (1 John 4: 7, 9)

In Christ's Service,
Rev. Vicky Ney

NEW MEMBER SEMINAR – FEBRUARY 11TH

Looking for a New Year's Resolution that will be easy to keep and will bring you joyous benefits, wonderful new friends, and a support system beyond imagining? If you are not officially a member of our church family, Pastor Vicky and the Outreach Committee extend an invitation to you to become officially affiliated with Springfield Presbyterian Church.

An informal "inquirers" lunch will be held on Sunday, February 11, beginning 11:45 a.m. after church at the Manse (Pastor Vicky and Richard's home, 164 Shunpike Road here in Springfield). We welcome anyone who is interested in learning more about our historic Presbyterian Church, about what it means to be a Presbyterian and curious about some history of our church and Christianity as a whole. There is no requirement to join our church—just an open mind! Lunch will be served and childcare will be available upon advance request. Please call the church office (973) 379-4320 or Pastor Vicky's cell phone (908-338-7429) to let us know you will attend. We look forward to seeing you there!



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship **will not meet** in February. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, March 10th.

LUNCH AND MOVIE - FEBRUARY 14TH

The weather may be cold but there's a warm welcome waiting for you at our February Lunch and Movie event. On Wednesday, February 14 (yes, Valentine's Day!) at noon in the Parish House Auditorium plan to enjoy a hearty lunch, friendly conversation, and a delightful movie, "Beauty and the Beast." This is not your typical Disney cartoon. There are live actors such as A-list Emma Watson, Kevin Kline, Ewan MacGregor, Audra McDonald, & Ian McKellen and some computer generated characters. The lovely music and dance and story line make this a delightful movie for the young and "young at heart" alike! Besides, it's a love story for Valentine's Day!

Please call the office (973) 379-4320 or sign up in coffee hour after church so that we may have an accurate count to prepare the food. Bring a friend! There's room for everyone!



(above) Church trip to Liberty Hall in Union to see the Kean Estate, decorated for Christmas.



Pastor Vicky and Richard Ney opened their home to church members and friends on January 7th to enjoy the end of the Christmas season with great fellowship.

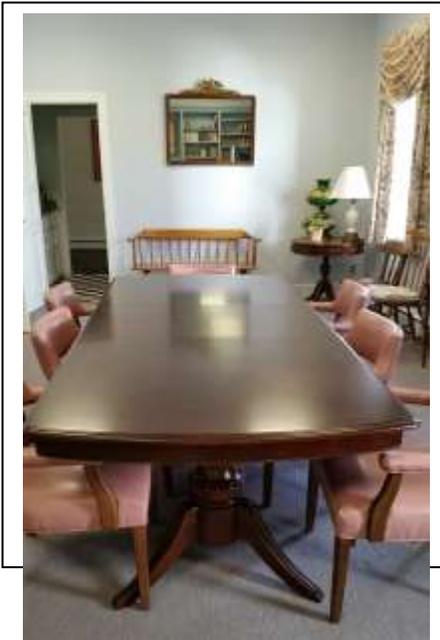


PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The next meeting of the Presbyterian Women will be on Wednesday, **March 21st at 4:00pm in the Chapel** for our business meeting, then set up for the Lenten Soup & Bread supper, for which we are hosts.

Annual Dues of \$3 can be brought to this meeting, or mailed to Janice Bongiovanni, 133 Short Hills Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081. All program ideas are welcome and appreciated, and all women of the church are welcome to attend/join.

NEW TABLE DONATED BY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



After several years of successful flea market sales, the Presbyterian Women's group decided that they would purchase a new table for the Parish House Library, where they often hold their meetings.

The table was delivered at the end of January and looks lovely! A glass top will be ordered to protect the finish and extend the life of the table.

We thank the PW for their generosity!



In Memory of L. Doris Ammerman (June 14, 1921 – January 4, 2018)

The sympathy of the Congregation is extended to the family and friends of L. Doris Ammerman, who died on January 4, 2018. Doris, who was an ordained Elder in the Presbyterian Church, transferred to our Congregation in 2010 with her daughter, Ruth.

A funeral service was held in our sanctuary on January 13th.

Notes of sympathy may be directed to Ruth Ammerman, 347 Durham Court, Union, NJ 07083



The Annual BINGO and Pizza event was enjoyed by many members on Jan. 21st.

Thank you to those who donated prizes and to Outreach for the set-up and clean-up.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Congratulations to the following members who accepted the nomination and were elected to their positions on January 28th .

- **Elder Class of 2020**: Linda Amiano*, Heather Francis*, Patricia Grigal,
- **Trustees Class of 2020**: Brian Donnelly, Mitchell Gleicher*, Rod Shinnners*
- **Deacon Class of 2018**: David Ares (1yr)
- **Deacon Class of 2020**: Tony Farrand, Christian Finnerty, Russell A. Werner, Tom Hale*
 (* indicates second three-year term)

We thank the following outgoing Officers who will complete their term once the new officers are installed:

Elder Art Biber

Deacons Catherine Gleicher and Patricia Grigal

Trustee Ted Doll

	<p>Feb 11 - Megan Dauser Bickel</p> <p>Feb 14 - Donald Hartman Lore Ullrich</p> <p>Feb 15 - Patricia Gahm</p> <p>Feb 16 - Alyssa Williams</p> <p>Feb 20 - Yolanda Rueda</p> <p>Feb 23 – Mekenzie Doherty</p> <p>Feb 26 - Melissa Guida Bliss</p> <p>Feb 28 - John Bunnell Walter Peterson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you don't see your birthday listed, please provide month and date to the office. We are happy to celebrate with all of our members!</p>
<p>Feb 1 - Lynn Doll</p> <p>Feb 3 - Linda Amiano Ken Guida Jean Sim</p> <p>Feb 5 - Eileen Clark Heather Hecking</p> <p>Feb 6 – Chase Werner</p> <p>Feb 7 - Ryan Doremus</p>	

CHURCH SECURITY NEEDS ASSESSED

When we were little children, many people remember church being a place where the door was always open and visitors were welcome anytime of the day or night. It was a safe haven for anyone who needed some time in prayer and reflection. Church security was unheard of. Over the course of the last couple of decades, that trend has changed. Almost all churches report that doors are open only during church services and the door to the church office has a bell to ring for admittance.

In the last 10 years we, as a congregation, revisited security for the part of the church building as it affected church time Sunday School and nursery. Doors in the chapel and fireside rooms were locked when the church service began. We purchased “pagers” for parents and Sunday School teachers if any needs arose in the upstairs children’s space.

More recently, through the news media, we have all become aware that the security needs during any public gathering are continuing to change. Last fall, after a particularly violent incident happened in a church in Texas, Session was aware that we had no extra security or policies in place. After much discussion and prayer, Session decided that worship and security are not mutually exclusive and that life is precious. Evil acts can happen anywhere, even in houses of worship. We believe that creating a sense of safety and security for everyone can actually enhance worship. It tells our church family and visitors that we care about them and allows us all to focus on why we are there—the worship of our Savior and declaration of the Gospel.

With that in mind, we spoke at length with the Springfield Police Department about enhanced security for all our buildings and the possibility of having a security person present during our church services. At the January Session meeting, it was unanimously agreed to hire a security guard. This new security guard will be an off-duty police officer provided by our township. They, of course, will work closely with the pastor and Deacons to offer a quiet security presence in the sanctuary.

Pastor Vicky or any Session member will be happy to speak with anyone if questions arise.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD



A Welcoming Church
for 271 Years...

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sanctuary/Chapel: 210 Morris Avenue Office/Parish House: 37 Church Mall Springfield, NJ 07081 PH-Parish House Aud- Paris House auditorium DR- Parish House Dining Room (lower level) SCCC-Springfield Community Children's Chorus LDYAG- Learning Disabled Young Adult Group				1	2	3 LDYAG 11-3
4 <u>Super Bowl Of Caring</u> 10:15 Communion Worship Service 11:15am Fellowship	5 Session 7pm w/Linwood Bagby from Restore Ministries -PH	6 OUTREACH 1PM	7 SCCC 4-6Aud.	8 Choir—7:30pm	9	10
11 10:15 Worship Service 11:15am Fellowship 11:45am New Member Inquiry lunch at Manse	12	13	14  Noon-Lunch and Movie-Aud. ASH WEDNESDAY Soup & Bread 6pm 6:45 Ash Wednesday Service-Chapel	15 Choir—7:30pm	16	17 LDYAG 11-3
18 10:15 Worship Service 11:15am Fellowship	19 President's Day Office Closed	20	21 Soup & Bread 6pm Bible Study 6:30- Chapel	22 Choir—7:30pm	23	24
25 10:15 Worship Service 11:15am Fellowship	26	27	28 Soup & Bread 6pm Bible Study 6:30- Chapel Trustees 7:30pm	PH-Parish House Aud- Paris House auditorium DR- Parish House Dining Room (lower level) SCCC-Springfield Community Children's Chorus LDYAG- Learning Disabled Young Adult Group		

THE FIRST CONGREGATION OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT SPRINGFIELD
37 CHURCH MALL
SPRINGFIELD, NJ 07081

Place
Stamp
here

PLACE ADDRESS
LABEL HERE

MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 7, 14, 21– Lenten Soup & Bread Supper and Bible Study
- March 14th – Lunch and Movie – Noon in Chapel
- Sunday, March 11th – Daylight Savings time begins. (turn clocks **ahead** one hour Saturday night, March 10th, so you won't be late for church!)
- Sunday, March 25th – Palm Sunday
- Thursday, March 29th – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service 7pm